(b) if so, whether there is any arrangement of providing such regular training to them and whether officers and soldiers have been imparted necessary regular training for use of weapons;

(c) whether a decision for discontinuing the training programme on civil defence earlier by the said force to common public has been taken, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) All combatised officers and personnel are imparted necessary training for use of weapons during basic training and are provided regular training thereafter.

(c) and (d) With the deployment of SSB as a Border Guarding Force, the role hitherto being performed by SSB has undergone a change.

Combating naxal violence

2270. SHRIMATI S G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reviewed the efforts and strategies adopted by the naxal violence affected States recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments had emphasized to strengthen delivery system for effective implementation of development schemes in the affected areas,

(d) if so, the views of the Government in this regard, and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision on strengthening of intelligence gathering and sharing mechanism by the violence affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Coordination Centre headed by the Union Home Secretary in its meeting on 5 August 2004 at New Delhi, reviewed the efforts and strategies adopted by naxal affected States in tackling naxalism. It was emphasized to have a co-ordinated approach to deal with the problem. The Governments of naxal affected States have been advised to study the Andhra Pradesh model of peace dialogue with the CPML-PW, carefully and take decisions on emulating it depending upon their assessment of its efficacy and the ground realities in their States. The States have also been asked to draw up and implement an action plan for removal of socio-cultural alienation of people in the affected areas and to ensure proper and full utilization of the funds available under various schemes like Security Related Expenditure (SRE), Backward Districts Initiative (BDI), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of the Government for tackling the problem.

Besides, the Coordination Centre reiterated its earlier decision to strengthen intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms by the States and mount focused, coordinated and sustained intelligence based anti-naxalite operations keeping in view the ground situation in the States.

Expenses on medical treatment of Gujarat riots victims

2271. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have borne the medical expenses and/or arranged treatment of victims during the Guajrat riots; and

(b) what is the number of physically handicapped victims due to last Gujarat episode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.